THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A novel process to obtain an insect anti-feedant and insect growth regulatory fraction from Neem Oil named as 'Vapacide' has been developed.

(b) The anti-feedant activities have been determined against many pest. The active fraction 'Vapacide' prevents the insects, from eating the crop and thus the insects starve and die. This anti-feedant property of the fraction from Neem makes it a safe product for pest control, particularly for vegetables, fruits, etc., where toxic residue must be avoided.

The insect antifeedant has been determined against larove of Mythimna separata walk (oriental army worm) under laboratory conditions. It has been evaluated for the control of insect pest of sorghum under field conditions. It was found to be effective against spotted stem borer (chilo partellus swin), oriental army-worm (Mythimna separata walk), cotton gray weevil (myllocerus species) and to a certain extent against head-bug (calcoris angustatus).

(c) The laboratory has entered into an agreement with a party on sponsorship basis for collection of extensive bio-efficacy data and eventual commercialisation.

High Level Committee on Problems of Ex-Servicemen

763. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations of the High Level Committee on the problems of Ex-servicemen which have not yet been accepted or implemented by Government;

(b) the reasons of delay;

(c) by when they are likely to be decided and implemented; and

(d) whether Ex-servicemen have represented in this regard; if so when, how and what were their demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) to (d) A statement is attached. The High Level Committee on problems of ex-servicemen had made 68 recommendaitons in its report. Decision has been taken on all these recommendations. Out of the 68 recommendations, 50 have been fully accepted, 6 partly accepted and 12 recommendations have not been accepted. Out of the recommendations not accepted, 4 of them are expected to be taken care of through existing schemes and institutions.

Of the 56 recommendations fully or partly accepted, 12 have been fully implemented. Implementation has been started and is in various stages of progress relating to 40 recommendations. Four are yet to be implemented.

From time to time, Ex-servicemen have represented individually or through their Associations on various issues. The main demands include 'rank for rank pension', 'Formation of an Ex-servicemen Commission', 'Setting up a Parliamentary Committee to monitor the implementation of Government guidelines', 'Enactment of Ex-servicemen Act', 'Setting up an Ex-servicemen Financial Corporation', 'Assured employment till the age of 58', 'Uniformity in regard to terms and conditions of re-employment in civil posts'.

Army Medical Corps Doctors

764. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that from 1987 onward the starting salary of Army Medical Corps Doctors has been brought

down and their first promotion becomes due only after 5 1/2 years of service as against only after 4 1/2 years earlier;

(b) if so, what are the details of reduction in the starting salary, reduction in rank and increase in the required period of service before first promotion of Army Medical Corps Doctors;

(c) what was the reason for this step when scales of all other Government employees are being revised upwards; and

(d) whether Government proposed to restore status quoante with a view to providing incentives for Doctors to enter Army Medical Corps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The pay scales of doctors in the Army Medical Corps (AMC) were revised on the recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission, which were made effective from 1-1-86. Induction to the AMC is done in the rank of Lieutenant (pre-internship) or Captain (post-internship). In case of Lieutenant, the minimum starting pay is Rs. 2600/- and for those appointed as Captain it is Rs. 2700/- In case of officers who were in service on 31-12-85, as Captain, the pay was revised as on 1-1-86 and fixed at Rs. 2800/-. The number of years of service required for first promotion from the rank of Captain to Major was reduced from 6 years to 5 years, consequent on the Cadre Review finalised in 1985.

(d) No, Sir.

Central Assessment of Fibrosar Coma Disease in Sarguja District in Madhya Pradesh

765. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of experts had recently been sent from the Centre to the predominantly tribal area of Sarguja district of Madhya Pradesh to assess the nature and extent of the disease fibrosar coma (Cancer);

(b) if so, what are the details of the report submitted by the team; and

(c) what action plan has been laid down in the light of the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c) A team of experts from the National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad, under the Indian Council of Medical Research was sent to Sarguja district to assess the nature and extent of the disease fibrosar coma in the tribal area. The team visited Sarguja District Primary Health Centres, the Holy Cross Hospital, Ambikapur, District Hospital, Sarguja and State Health Directorate at Bhopal.

A total of 24 cases of fibrosar coma have been reported in the Holy Cross Hospital at Ambikapur in a period of 12 years i.e. from 1976 to 1988. The I.C.M.R. is analysing the data.

Eighth Five Year Plan

766. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the preparation for the Eighth Five Year Plan has since been completed; and

(b) if so, what are the new thrusts of it as compared to the earlier ones?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) The Five Year Plans are formulated through a well established